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Programme planning

New subprogramme on financing for development and revisions to relevant subprogrammes under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] and requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the outcome of the Conference, measures taken as well as his proposals for ensuring effective secretariat support, in pursuance of paragraph 72 of the Monterrey Consensus.

2. In paragraphs 107 and 108 of its report on its forty-second session,[2] the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that: (a) following the endorsement of the Monterrey Consensus by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General should prepare a proposal for a new subprogramme on financing for development under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session; and (b) in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] the Secretary-General should submit revisions to relevant subprogrammes for the consideration of and action by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

3. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/57/344) is currently under consideration by the Second Committee of the Assembly. The report presents highlights of the main outcome of the Conference. It also provides an account of key issues addressed in the 12 multi-stakeholder round-table meetings convened during the ministerial and summit segments of the Conference. Further, as requested by the Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 56/210 B, the report proposes an approach for ensuring effective secretariat support, in pursuance of

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paragraph 72 of the Monterrey Consensus, building on the innovative and participatory modalities and related coordination arrangements utilized in the preparations for the Conference. The Second Committee is in the process of reviewing the report and has not yet reached a decision on the proposals contained therein. The outcome of the review of the report by the Second Committee will guide the organizational and programmatic arrangements that will be put in place for the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. For this reason, it is recommended that revisions to the medium-term plan, as requested by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, be submitted after the Second Committee has taken action on the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General, relating to the arrangements for the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

4. As regards the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relating to additional revisions to relevant subprogrammes of programme 7 of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, it is recalled that the Assembly is currently considering various options and modalities for the intergovernmental review of the follow-up to conferences, with a view to achieving better integration of these processes, in particular as they relate to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the millennium development goals, as well as the follow-up to both the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The conclusions that the Assembly will reach on this overall issue will have important implications for defining requirements for secretariat support and reporting and, therefore, for the tasks and structure of relevant units within the Secretariat.

5. Taking into account the reviews that the Assembly is currently undertaking in respect of the arrangements to be put in place for an effective follow-up to the implementation of the outcomes of the recent global conferences, in particular the Monterrey Consensus and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] the Secretariat is recommending that proposals for revising the medium-term plan as requested by the Committee for Programme and Coordination be submitted at a subsequent stage so as to take into account the outcome of these reviews. Should the Assembly finalize the two reviews when it is too late for it to consider relevant proposals to revise the medium-term plan, it is recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to put forward such relevant proposals in conjunction with his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Such a procedure would be in accordance with Regulation 5.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which states that the programme proposals set out in the budget should aim at achieving the objectives established in the medium-term plan, and that programme proposals that are not derived from the objectives of the plan should be submitted only as a result of legislation passed subsequent to the adoption of the plan or its latest revision. The Assembly may also wish to invite the Committee for Programme and Coordination, when it considers the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 at its forty-third session, to pay particular attention to the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General in order to ensure that they reflect fully the decisions of the General Assembly.

Notes

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).

[3] See *Report of the World Conference on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (A/CONF.199/20), chap. I.